

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IO-13 AF-10 SS-15 L-03 IGA-02

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 /122 R

DRAFTED BY EA/HHBARGER:AC

9/13/73 X20366

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R 132248Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182667

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIN, CB

SUBJECT: ESF AND IMF

REFERENCE: PHNOM PENH 9707

1. THE POSSIBILITY OF IMF REPRESENTATIVE ACCOMPANYING SOK CHHONG TO NAIROBI MEETING DISCUSSED WITH HEAD OF ASIAN DEPARTMENT OF IMF AND HIS DEPUTY. THEIR ATTITUDE AS INDICATED IN REFTEL NEGATIVE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

1) DELEGATIONS TO IBRD/IMF ANNUAL MEETINGS ATTEND TO DISCUSS GLOBAL ISSUES AND ARE NOT BRIEFED ON MATTERS SUCH AS ESF; 2) REPRESENTATIVES ARE ORDINARILY FROM FINANCE MINISTRIES OF GOVERNMENTS RATHER THAN AID ORGANIZATIONS; 3) EXPERIENCE WITH CAMBODIAN EFFORTS AT PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN NON-PRODUCTIVE AND IN SOME CASES COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE BECAUSE OF CROWDED SCHEDULES AND MEMBERS RESENTMENT HAVING THEIR TIME TAKEN UP WITH ISSUES EXTRANEIOUS TO IMF AGENDA.

2. POINTS MADE IN REFTEL CONVEYED TO IMF BUT THE DEPUTY
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HEAD OF THE ASIAN DIVISION POINTED OUT THAT TWO EXPERTS FROM

THE FUND, JACK WOODLEY, AND AL MATTERA, BOTH KNOWLEDGEABLE ON ESF, WILL BE IN NAIROBI AND WILL BE WILLING TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH THEY CAN HELP SOK CHHONG. THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 OR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, IN THE ASIAN DEPARTMENT OF THE CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS TO CONSULT WITH SOK CHHONG.

3. IMF SUGGESTS THAT APPROACH TO DONOR AMBASSADORS IN PHNOM PENH PRIOR TO NAIROBI MEETING WOULD BE BEST WAY TO GET MESSAGE TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN DONOR GOVERNMENTS. THE FUND ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING AID FROM THE EEC FUND FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE BE EXPLORED WITH THE EEC AMBASSADORS REPRESENTED IN PHNOM PENH.
4. IMF COMMUNICATING DIRECTLY WITH EVERS AS FOLLOW UP TO DEPARTMENT'S DISCUSSION. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE182667
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BARGERL
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730936/aaaabacp.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PHNOM PENH 9707
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <04-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESF AND IMF
TAGS: EFIN, CB
To: PHNOM PENH
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005